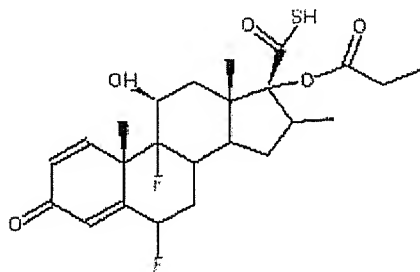


Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended, and no claims have been added or cancelled, leaving claims 1-20 pending upon entry of the present amendment.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-8, with traverse. This election is being made without prejudice to Applicants' rights with respect to Claims 9-16, Group II; Claims 17-19, Group III; Claim 20, Group IV, including the right to file divisional application(s) thereon.

Claims 9 and 10 have been amended and support for the amendments can be found in the claims as filed. Specifically, claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Essentially, claim 9 and the claims that depend therefrom are additional method steps in which the steroidal carbothioic acid of claim 1 is converted to a steroidal carbothioate. Because of the substantial overlap in process steps, and the fact that claim 9 depends from claim 1, Applicants ask the Examiner to join Group II into Group I and search claims 1-16. No serious examination burden would result from searching claims 1-16.

The Examiner has also asked the Applicants for a tentative election of a single species for examination. Applicants elect:



6 α ,9 α -difluoro-11 β -hydroxy-16 α -methyl-3-oxo-17 α -propionyloxyandrosta-1,4-diene-17 β -carbothioic acid

If there are any charges with respect to this Restriction Requirement, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

/Karen A. LeCuyer/

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